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25X1 Garver, Jr.

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1. JCS CHAIRMAN ADMIRAL MOORER HAS ASKED IF

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COULD POSSIBLY ASSIST IN CHECKING WHAT ACTUALLY DAMAGED FRENCH DELEGATION GENERAL BUILDING(S) IN HANOI ON 11 OCTOBER.

2. MOORER SAYS THE U.S. AIRCRAFT IN THE HANOI AREA WERE ATTACKING THE GIA LAM RAILROAD MARSHALLING YARD WHICH IS ABOUT THREE MILES FROM THE FRENCH DELEGATION GENERAL AND ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE RED RIVER. (THE CITY PROPER IS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER, THE GIA LAM YARDS ON THE EAST SIDE.) THE ATTACKING AIRCRAFT DROPPED 66 FIVE-HUNDRED POUND BOMBS (MARK 82'S) AND 59 ONE-THOUSAND POUND BOMBS (MARK 83'S).

MOORER SAID HIS DETAILED CHECKS HAD CONVINCED HIM IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALMOST PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR U.S. BOMBS TO HAVE HIT THE FRENCH DELEGATION GENERAL UNLESS PERHAPS THERE HAD BEEN A HUNG BOMB WHICH HAD FALLEN FROM ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT WITHOUT THE PILOT'S KNOWLEDGE.

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3. THIS RAISES THE POSSIBILITY (OR PRESUMPTION) THAT WHAT ACTUALLY HIT AND DAMAGED THE DELEGATION GENERAL WAS ONE OR EVEN TWO FALLING SAM'S (WHICH HAD EITHER MALFUNCTIONED OR MISSED THEIR TARGET AND ARCED BACK TO GROUND IN A HIGH PARABOLA). A SAM WARHEAD CARRIES FOUR POUNDS MORE ACTUAL EXPLOSIVE THAN DOES A 1,000 POUND MARK 83 BOMB. ALSO, THE FUEL ~~EXPLODES INSTANTLY~~ STORED JUST ABAFT THE WARHEAD WOULD ITSELF EXPLODE AND ADD TO THE DESTRUCTION EFFECTED.

4. FROM PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF THE DAMAGED SITE, A REASONABLY WELL TRAINED EYE KNOWING WHAT TO LOOK FOR COULD PROBABLY MAKE AT LEAST A RESPECTABLE EDUCATED GUESS ON WHETHER THE DELEGATION GENERAL WAS HIT BY BOMB OR SAM. A BOMB (BY DESIGN) WOULD PENETRATE BUILDING OR GROUND BEFORE EXPLODING. A SAM (ALSO BY DESIGN) WOULD EXPLODE IMMEDIATELY UPON INITIAL CONTACT WITHOUT ANY PERCEPTIBLE PENETRATION. A BOMB, HENCE, WOULD CAUSE A CRATERING EFFECT. A SAM WOULD

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NOT. THEREFORE, IF VISUAL INSPECTION SHOWED ANY SIGN OR EVIDENCE OF PRE-EXPLOSION PENETRATION OR CRATERING, THIS WOULD SUGGEST BOMB. IF THE DAMAGE APPEARED TO BE ALL BLAST DAMAGE WITH NO SIGNS OF PENETRATION OR CRATERING, THAT WOULD SUGGEST SAM.

5. THE STATE DEPARTMENT, RESPONDING TO A SIMILAR JCS REQUEST, HAS ALREADY CABLED PARIS, SAIGON, OTTAWA, AND VIENTIANE #29279 VIA LIMDIS DEPTTEL 184948, WHICH WAS NOT SENT TO LONDON.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH READS AS FOLLOWS. BEGIN QUOTE: WE HAVE REQUESTED CANADIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO SEND URGENT MESSAGE TO CANADIAN ICC ELEMENT IN HANOI TO OBTAIN ON SPOT ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE TO FRENCH DELEGATION-GENERAL, IN SPECIFIC EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER EXPLOSION RESULTED FROM AIR-DROPPED ORDNANCE OR FROM SOME OTHER CAUSE, SUCH AS SAM IMPACT, SACHEL CHARGE, ETC. CANADIANS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY ASKED TO ATTEMPT RECOVER METAL FRAGMENTS OR OTHER MATERIAL

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WHICH MIGHT ASSIST IN ACCURATE ANALYSIS OF CAUSE. END QUOTE.

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6. WE OBVIOUSLY DO NOT WISH TO CROSS WIRES WITH STATE'S

[REDACTED] REQUEST TO THE CANADIANS. WE HAVE, HOWEVER,

25X1

PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN IN OUR OWN CHANNELS TO HELP

ICS ENQUIRY. THEREFORE REQUEST YOU CONTACT TOP ECHELON OF

[REDACTED] IMMEDIATELY, DRAWING ON ABOVE FOR BACKGROUND, AND

ASK IF APPROPRIATE SPECIFIC TASKING COULD BE LAID ON [REDACTED]

25X1

BY FASTEST SECURE CHANNEL ~~XXX~~ AVAILABLE. ANY ADDITIONAL

25X1

EVIDENCE [REDACTED] COULD OBSERVE OR GLEAN (E.G., METAL FRAGMENTS)

WOULD ALSO BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. WE WELL RECOGNIZE

THE BUILT-IN DELAYS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM, BUT

NEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ~~XXX~~ AS DETAILED A REPORT AS [REDACTED]

25X1

CAN PROVIDE.

7. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THERE MAY BE SOME [REDACTED]

25X1

HIGHER) RESISTANCE TO ACCEPTING THIS REQUEST. GIVEN LEVEL AND

URGENCY OF CONCERN ON THIS MATTER AT THIS END, HOWEVER, WE

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ASK THAT YOU BE AS INSISTENT AS NECESSARY. THIS IS ONE ON WHICH  
25X1 WE ARE PREPARED TO DRAW DOWN THE GOOD WILL CAPITAL ACCOUNT.  
PLEASE ADVISE RESULTS OF YOUR [REDACTED] CONTACTS, AT ONCE.

25X1 E-Z, IMPDET. [REDACTED] END OF MESSAGE

25X1

25X1

George A. Carver, Jr.

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